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THE WAR

LACK OF NEWS.

GERMANS' GREAT EFFORT.

EXPECTED TO-DAY.

ANNIVERSARY OF SEDAN.

RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN.

Tremendous Fighting.

There is a remarkable absence of war news. It is suggested that the Germans have been awaiting the anniversary of Sedan (to-day), for which they have planned an overwhelming victory.

Apparently the British have had no fighting since Wednesday.

Telegrams from Antwerp confirm the report that throughout Friday numerous trains were transporting Germans eastward, and, whereas it was suggested that this meant that the Germans were feeling the pressure of the Russian advance, it is now thought possible that the trains were only conveying wounded, as it is unlikely that the Germans would weaken their fighting lines in France at present.

In the meantime, however, the Russians in the east are making steady progress.

Very severe fighting is taking place on the Austro-Russian frontier, in which the Russians appear to have had the advantage.

WAR BULLETIN.

HEAVY FIGHTING.

SIR GEO. REID'S MESSAGE.

MELBOURNE, Tuesday. The Minister for External Affairs has received the following messages from the High Commission in London:

"The French Embassy states that the left wing of the Allies has taken the offensive, and driven the Prussian Guard to Gisors."

"There is heavy fighting south-west of Meulan, due to the advance by an army under the command of the French."

"The French have taken the offensive in Lorraine. The enemy has pushed back into the allied line from the Somme to the Marne, and overrun the north-west of France with cavalry."

"The Russians are approaching the fortresses of Thionville and Gravelotte."

"The Russians have invaded Russian Poland, and are advancing towards Lublin."

Aug. 31, 10.50 p.m. "Official. Three hundred British wounded have reached London, and were accorded a stirring reception. The soldiers are anxious to return to the front."

"In the House of Commons to-night Mr. Asquith delivered a sensational article in the 'Times' concerning the condition of the British troops, and said that it would possibly be necessary to pass drastic legislation to prevent a recurrence."

"The House of Lords decided that the moratorium should continue."

"Reliable. The German forces are in the region of La Fere, 70 miles from Paris. A French army of 150,000 repelled the Germans east of Guise. The Germans comprehend the Allies' left wing to give ground."

"Germans are leaving Belgium, presumably to strengthen the resistance against the Russian advance."

"The Australian Government has informed Sir George that the Germans will abandon their neutrality in favour of Russia. Bulgaria will do likewise, and all the Balkan States except Turkey will take sides with the Triple Entente."

AGENT-GENERAL'S MESSAGE.

POSITION OF ALLIES.

The following cablegram from the State Agent-General in London was received to-day:

"There is no news beyond what has been despatched to the press."

"The Allied forces extended on Saturday behind the Somme, from Abbeville to Roye, thence to La Fere to a point 20 miles south of Montdidier, then behind the Marne by Verneuil, as far as Toul, and south along the valley of Upper Moselle. 'Late news says left front has pushed back still further, and Germans have had some successes at La Fere.'

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THE NAVIES.

MORE MINE LAYING.

GERMAN VESSEL CAUGHT.

SUNK BY BRITISH CRUISER.

LONDON, Aug. 31. A British cruiser caught a German trawler laying the Norwegian flag laying mines in the North Sea.

The cruiser gave the crew of the German vessel three minutes to escape and then rammed and sank the trawler.

BRITISH BRAVERY.

GERMAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

BERLIN, Sept. 1. A wireless message through the military service has been received here which says: "The British sailors in the fight off Heligoland, without considering their own danger, set out in lifeboats to save our men."

THE ARMIES.

LATEST REPORTS.

FRENCH STATEMENT.

PARIS, Sept. 1. An official communiqué was issued last night summing up the situation.

It stated: "On the right flank, after partial checks, we have taken the offensive, and the enemy is now retreating."

"In the centre we have had alternate successes and checks, and a general battle is now in progress."

"The morale of the armies is extremely good, despite losses, which have now been made good from the depots."

The writer adds that the terrorist policy of the German had been thoroughly successful.

The French resumed the offensive two days ago, in the Yonne, and in Lorraine, and this attack continues to be pressed forward, although slowly. Every position occupied is immediately strengthened, and the advance every day is characterised by new local successes.

"The troops in the Spalzett and Longon district, to the north-east of Verdun, have checked the German Crown Prince's army near Neufchateau, but on the other hand some French troops suffered partial checks, and were obliged to retire on the Meuse.

"During the last few days the enemy is been trying to cross the Meuse in considerable numbers, but have been forced to turn back with very heavy losses."

"Fresh German forces have advanced by noon-day, five miles to the north-west of Metz, and a general action is in progress, but it is impossible to foresee the final result."

The communiqué attributes the Allies' retreat from Charleroi and Mons to the Germans, forcing the French back near Givet.

It also mentions that the French are withdrawing before the German right wing, where the enemy has concentrated its finest corps.

SEDAN ANNIVERSARY.

THE GERMAN PLAN.

LONDON, Sept. 1. There is a remarkable absence of war news. It is suggested that the Germans are awaiting the anniversary of Sedan (September 2), for which they have planned an overwhelming victory.

Frequent incidents are reported of French Germans firing their rifles and then accusing the inhabitants upon which the burning and murdering commence.

BRUSSELS THREATENED.

LONDON, Sept. 1. The "Express" correspondent at the Hague states that four of the richest men in Belgium, M. Solvay, "The Alkali King," M. Lambrecht, the Rothschild representative in Belgium, M. Wissous, a millionaire, and Baron Eugen, a railway magnate, have guaranteed to Germany the payment of £800,000, otherwise Brussels would have been treated as Louvain. Big guns had already been mounted in the Place du Congres, in front of the Palais de Justice.

MINERS' INDIGNATION.

LONDON, Sept. 1. The statements that the Germans at Charleroi destroyed the winding machinery at the pits mouths, thus entombing the miners, has aroused horror in mining circles in the North of England, and has the effect of stimulating recruiting for the miners' regiments that are being formed.

HARD MEASURES" JUSTIFIED.

BERLIN, Sept. 1. General von Moltke denies that the German troops have committed atrocities, and declares that where hard measures have been taken they have been provoked by the participation of the civil population, including women, in the war.

Mr. Asquith said it was impossible to command too highly the patriotic action of the press generally, but the publication referred to was a regrettable exception, and he doubted whether correspondents could be permitted to go to the front.

Mr. Asquith added that it might prove necessary to legislate drastically if unreliable war news was disseminated.

In the House of Lords last night Viscount Haldane announced that the British Government were arranging to supply a daily narrative of the course of the war promptly and as fully as possible.

Lord Balfour, in advocating the relaxation of the censorship in order that the country might have more vivid knowledge of the heroic deeds of the British forces, recalled what happened in Victoria at the outbreak of the South African war. He said that telegrams were posted outside the newspaper offices, and when they read of the reverses to the British arms, the Australians were instantly stirred to action. The Australian contingent, he declared, were organised in consequence of well-timed publicity.

LONDON, Sept. 1. Mr. F. E. Smith, M.P. admits that he personally edited the "Times" message on Sunday last, and that he himself added the paragraph insisting on the necessity for increased recruiting.

IN BELGIUM.

GERMAN RETIREMENT.

ANTWERP, Aug. 31. The entire region north of the Demer River is now clear of Germans. Dix has been evacuated.

RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN.

SATISFACTORY REPORTS.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 1. Although Austria-Hungary has 1,000,000 men in the field, the Russians are steadily advancing, and are at the same time successfully holding back the enemy's attempt to outflank them in the vicinity of Lublin.

Moreover, Lemberg, the capital of Galicia is now half encircled.

The slaughter on the various battle-fields has been appalling.

The Austrians have been defeated outside Zamosc, a strongly fortified town 45 miles south-east of Lublin.

POLES AND SLAVS.

DESERTING TO ALLIES.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 1. The newspapers contain editorials thanking the British fleet for keeping the Atlantic sea lanes open, thus enabling commerce of the United States to continue without delay or annoyance from any of the belligerents.

ESPIONAGE.

A CANADIAN OUTRAGE.

VALCARTIER, Quebec, Sept. 1. A troop train on the Canadian Northern

GERMAN CASUALTIES.

BERLIN, Sept. 1. The German War Office has forbidden the publication of any further casualty lists.

GERMAN METHODS.

A TERRORIST POLICY.

MURDER AND LOOT.

LONDON, Aug. 31. An Oxford graduate, who was present at the sack of Louvain, states that when he entered on Friday morning the greater part of the town was ablaze, and houses were tumbling into the streets. At that time the Hotel de Ville (Town-hall) was intact, and the German officers stated that they intended to preserve it.

At Courtrai he witnessed the systematic burning of houses in revenge for the inhabitants firing on the Union. He also saw five civilians shot while escaping from burning dwellings.

LONDON, Aug. 31. The Marquis of Crewe (Lord Privy Seal) stated in the House of Lords this afternoon that it was impossible to arrange for the moratorium to forthwith cease, and it must continue within limits.

LONDON, Sept. 1. Mr. Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons last night that the moratorium will be extended for a month. He added that confidence was being gradually established, and he hoped to practically abolish the moratorium within a few weeks.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

LONDON, Aug. 31. The Canadian press comments patriotically upon the report that New Zealand and Australia had captured Samoa, and attribute it to a "brilliant feat." The hope is expressed that the Australians and New Zealanders will also be able to secure German New Guinea and the other colonies in the Pacific.

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SEA TRADE.

IMPERIAL INSURANCE SCHEME.

ASSISTING LOCAL SHIPPERS.

The Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Glynn) on arrival in Sydney yesterday from Melbourne said that a few days ago he held a conference in Melbourne with the chairman of the associated banks, the representatives of the shipping companies, and representatives of the Underwriters' Association, to consider what could be done to afford cover, at a reasonable rate, against war risks to such exporters or merchants as were unable to take advantage of the Imperial scheme. Some time ago the Imperial Government made arrangements with these underwriters to give an insurance against war risks to the extent of 80 per cent. of the cargo insured. The scheme was confined to vessels registered in the United Kingdom, and he thought to vessels owned by particular associations. As a matter of fact, those arrangements covered practically all the vessels trading between the United Kingdom and Australia.

Mr. Glynn said he had cabled home to the Imperial Government to see what facilities could be afforded to shippers at this end of taking advantage of the Imperial scheme. He was surprised to learn it was absolutely necessary that all applications should be made direct in the United Kingdom, but that there was no difficulty as regarded the larger shippers in the way of taking advantage of it by cabling home.

The result of the conference was that it was agreed that the Imperial scheme would give cover to shippers who were not regular clients. Rates by the local underwriters were then fixed at 80 per cent. The rates of which complaint had been previously made, and which were in some cases as high as 20 per cent., were tentative rates to cover cargoes offered at the time of the declaration of war.

The good of insurance had been effected through the Imperial scheme, and a Melbourne business man said the previous day he had recently effected insurance to the extent of £50,000, and that only a day or two before he secured a cover to the extent of £20,000.

BRITISH MATERIAL FOR MANUFACTURERS.

Mr. H. E. Pratten, president of the New South Wales Chamber of Manufactures, wishes to inform manufacturers who have been obtaining supplies of raw material from Germany or Austria, and who are in debtors of obtaining their supplies from Great Britain, that arrangements have been made with H.M. Trade Commissioner in Australia to forward samples of such goods to the Board of Trade for inspection by British manufacturers.

Such goods can be instructed to get into a British port, and thus facilitate shipping. Goods will be supplied to manufacturers by the secretary of the chamber, 1 O'Connell-street.

SEIZED VESSELS.

Mr. W. H. Barkley, the Collector of Customs, announces that arrangements are being made for the discharge of the German vessels now under detention in Commonwealth ports. It will be necessary for consignees at ports other than those at which the vessels are detained, and who do not wish their goods to be transhipped, to inform forthwith the Collector of Customs at those ports to that effect.

Consignees will be expected to make their own arrangements for the insurance of their goods, if not already covered by existing policies, during the period of transhipment.

BROKEN HILL.

AN ANGRY DEMONSTRATION.

BROKEN HILL, Tuesday. The position regarding the war as affecting Broken Hill reached an acute stage to-day. The labour force yesterday motioned to adjourn the meeting to allow time to make a police investigation of all cases. The unions did not like this, and held a meeting this morning. The result was that, while the distress relief committee was meeting and had agreed to accept union investigation, leaving police inquiry until later, those who had taken part in the public meeting attacked the Town Hall, and a crowd of about 500, and things looked serious for a time. The crowd demanded "work or coupon."

The Mayor (Alderman W. B. Brice) from the Town Hall balcony explained what the committee was doing, but this did not please the crowd, and finally on the advice of his conference Mr. Butler left the room, and told the mob that the committee would ask for the immediate starting of relief works, and for an immediate advance of £1000 for coupon issue.

When the committee met after the demonstration it was decided to send the following telegram to the Government:—"Relief committee promised a demonstration of 500 men to telegraph to the Government asking that relief works be started immediately. It also agreed to go to the unions to demand that they forward at once. There was nearly a riot during the so-called demonstration the tram service was stopped, and one driver was pulled off his engine. The police by careful work saved the situation. It is reported that the police force is to be reduced. They are wanted here more than ever. The crowd descended into one of the most boisterous since the miners' strike."

"Unless the Government acts promptly something may occur," said a member of the Government who stood regarding its public works policy and the loss market.

Referring first to the system adopted by the Government of putting men on public works on half time, Mr. Cann said that the men were complaining about it. "We cannot increase the expenditure," the Minister explained, "and it is no mean problem keeping the public works expanded at the same time as the loss market."

"In view of the present rate of expenditure over as big a number of employees as we possibly can, the war has now kept things going at the normal rate, although our supplies have been cut off. I mean, as far as loan money is concerned. We have no hope of getting money from anywhere in the Commonwealth."

Asked if the State Government proposed to borrow from the Commonwealth, Mr. Cann replied: "There is a proposal to get paper money going, but nothing has yet been done, and we have not made any venture on that line as yet."

As Minister for Mines, Mr. Cann expressed gratification with the action of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's effort to mobilise the hard lot of the miners at Broken Hill resulting from the war.

"I am very pleased," he said, "that the Broken Hill Proprietary Company is putting its plant at the disposal of the rest of the State. The Hill companies, in order to assist the distress as far as possible, that is a step in the right direction, and I would like to be assured that the Cockle Creek Company (the Sulphide Corporation) is going to do likewise, because these are the two companies with reduction plants. As the Sulphide Corporation generally buys its mineral from all sources, I am sure that it will be able to have over its plant to the other companies to assist in the same way."

At a special meeting held at Peterham Monday the Western Suburbs Rifle Club decided to give from their club's war chest the sum of £50, to be forwarded to the State Commandant, Colonel Wallach, for purchasing equipment for the expeditionary force.

It was further unanimously agreed to forward all prizes during the 12 months, the sum representing thereby to be divided at the committee's discretion between the patriotic funds.

At a first contribution the following amounts were given: Broken Hill's £100, Chamber of Commerce fund, £2.

RELIEF BOARD. The National Relief Fund Act recently passed by the Government as an emergency measure the following were yesterday appointed by the Governor in Council members of the National Relief Board of New South Wales, to act in conjunction with the Chief Secretary (Mr. Cann), the Lord Mayor of Sydney (Mr. T. Richards), and the Trustee (Mr. T. G. Gossell):—James Ashton, M.L.C.; Alfred Brice, M.L.A.; Arthur Maclean, a general secretary to the Mutual and Citizens' Assurance Company, Ltd.; Edward John Keaveny, M.L.C.; secretary to the Trading and Labour Council of New South Wales; Daniel Augustine O'Connell, general secretary to the Railways Workers and General Labourers' Association of New South Wales; and the president of the Ryde Chamber of Commerce for the time being Mr. W. Woodward, M.L.C.

EFFECT ON TRADE.

ROYAL COMMISSION.

PRICES OF NECESSARIES.

Further evidence was given before Judge Gossell and Messrs. Moore and Cunningham, sitting as a Royal Commission to inquire into the control of necessary commodities during the war.

F. W. Vincent, acting manager of the Civil Service Co-operative Society of New South Wales, said that since the outbreak of the war the prices of grocery lines generally had been altered owing to the war.

George Albert Nunkirk, president of the Co-operative Traders' Association, said that eatables had been raised a ton and four £2 a ton, but no reason could be advanced to support the latter rise.

Arthur Ernest Foss, a director of Messrs. John Cannell and Co., wholesale grocers, of Kent-street, city, said that, as far as their August price list was concerned, some increases were made principally with imported goods. The prices of acids had been increased considerably, owing to the cost having been raised at home. Some of the insurances on these lines were present amounted to 11 per cent. The cost of cream of tartar was now quoted by wholesale houses in Sydney at a greatly increased price, as it was quite unobtainable in London. This article was manufactured solely in France and Germany. No alteration had been made in the price of tea, sugar, rice, cornflour, golden syrup, colonial jams, soap, starch, blue, self-rising flour and raisins. Tapioca had gone up but little, but witness considered that the rise was not too temporary. Rolled oats, owing to the extra price charged for oats, had also increased. Vinegar, which had been increased at present, and which was in some cases as high as 20 per cent., were tentative rates to cover cargoes offered at the time of the declaration of war.

The good of insurance had been effected through the Imperial scheme, and a Melbourne business man said that only a day or two before he secured a cover to the extent of £20,000.

Up to the present the southern coal-mining industry has not been affected to any extent by the war. All the mines are working regularly, and the output is being fully maintained.

COAL MINES.

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RELIEVING BROKEN HILL.

Mr. Holman has received a communication from Mr. Peake, stating that the South Australian Railway Commissioner has arranged contingencies to be carried at half rates over the South Australian lines on the statutory declaration of contingencies that the goods are being forwarded to the secretary of the relief committee at Broken Hill.

FOREIGNERS IN MINES.

PERTH, Tuesday. Speaking to a press representative on Friday last the Minister for Mines, Mr. Collier, said that foreigners were being kept in employment in the mining industry to the exclusion of British people. Later the statement was brought under notice of Bevitch, Mowring, and Co., general managers Great Pinnal, Sons of Gwalia, and a number of other outback mines where large numbers of foreigners are reported to be employed.

The following reply has since been received from Mr. Peake, the general manager of the firm: "We would welcome the opportunity of replacing the Australian miners by British, but, unfortunately, there is a dearth of this class of labour. Recently we required men for the Mountain Queen mine at Marvel Loch, Sons of Gwalia, and at Leda, and in response to advertisements many British miners and British miners and engaged a full complement of British, but in neither instance did more than 20 per cent. turn up to proceed to the mines. In the case of the former property we were forced to engage naturalised Italians, and in regard to the Sons of Gwalia we are still endeavouring to procure British subjects. We had similar experience in connection with the Yuanni mine."

COPPER MINES RESUME. The following reply has since been received from Mr. Peake, the general manager of the firm: "We would welcome the opportunity of replacing the Australian miners by British, but, unfortunately, there is a dearth of this class of labour. Recently we required men for the Mountain Queen mine at Marvel Loch, Sons of Gwalia, and at Leda, and in response to advertisements many British miners and British miners and engaged a full complement of British, but in neither instance did more than 20 per cent. turn up to proceed to the mines. In the case of the former property we were forced to engage naturalised Italians, and in regard to the Sons of Gwalia we are still endeavouring to procure British subjects. We had similar experience in connection with the Yuanni mine."

MELBOURNE, Tuesday. The Hampden-Clovelly copper miners having made financial arrangements intend to resume operations as soon as the men can be got together. It is intended to store the blister copper produced, and the men will be paid half wages at present, and the balance when the copper is realised. It is understood that the Commonwealth Bank will help the company financially. Work will be resumed on the same scale as before, which means that between 500 and 1000 men will be employed.

Much time was devoted at Monday night's meeting of the United Labour Protective Society at a dinner at the Hotel Victoria, to the decision of the Government to make a police investigation of all cases. The unions did not like this, and held a meeting this morning. The result was that, while the distress relief committee was meeting and had agreed to accept union investigation, leaving police inquiry until later, those who had taken part in the public meeting attacked the Town Hall, and a crowd of about 500, and things looked serious for a time. The crowd demanded "work or coupon."

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STATE TREASURY. The position of the State Treasury was yesterday as follows:—

FINANCING WORK. The position of the State Treasury was yesterday as follows:—

STATEMENT BY MR. CANN. The Chief Secretary and Minister for Mines has intimated to the committee and members of the National Relief Board of New South Wales, to act in conjunction with the Chief Secretary (Mr. Cann), the Lord Mayor of Sydney (Mr. T. Richards), and the Trustee (Mr. T. G. Gossell):—James Ashton, M.L.C.; Alfred Brice, M.L.A.; Arthur Maclean, a general secretary to the Mutual and Citizens' Assurance Company, Ltd.; Edward John Keaveny, M.L.C.; secretary to the Trading and Labour Council of New South Wales; Daniel Augustine O'Connell, general secretary to the Railways Workers and General Labourers' Association of New South Wales; and the president of the Ryde Chamber of Commerce for the time being Mr. W. Woodward, M.L.C.

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1914.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

LORD MAYOR'S LIST.

The Lord Mayor gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following contributions to the Patriotic Fund:—

Amounts already forwarded—£20,000 11 7

W. H. Peake, *Sydney Morning Herald*—Published List

Proceeds of the Patriotic Fund

Public School, Large, West Maitland

Thomas Clark

J. F. Pearce

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